

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mr Ellsberg
(for future use)

(Prepared 22 April 1965)

Spuch

From Mr. SYLVESTER

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Some recent reports say that we have put too much reliance on the use of missiles for anti-aircraft defense; that the conventional anti-aircraft being used in North Vietnam is quite effective. Are we receiving this subject with a view toward distributing quad-fifties and other types of anti-aircraft guns?
2. Have you any rebuttal to the Freedom of Information Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors which charges you with continuing restrictions on newsmen and continuing management of the news?
3. Has the carrier Ranger damaged by fire been replaced by another carrier? What is its name?
4. Is there any evidence in the recent case of MIGs attacking our aircraft that the MIGs were flown by Chinese?
5. Recent DoD statement said U.S. aircraft are always authorized to defend themselves. Does this include authority for 'hot pursuit' after attack? over China?
6. Are Marines at DaNang and Hue going to continue to be permitted to engage in offensive operations?
7. Why do we list locations of some missing aircraft and not others?

8. In U.S. News and World Report interview, you are quoted saying South Vietnam situation "has been deteriorating for the past year," etc., "but it is far from hopeless." Do you now detect any improvement as result of air strikes?

9. Can you comment on what appears obvious U.S. build-up in Pacific, namely, moves of F-104s, F-4Bs, etc. from U.S. bases "westward"?

10. In view of what appears to be an expanding military effort in relation to Vietnam, are you contemplating establishing a Southeast Asia Command which might be considered comparable to the Far East Command of the Korean War?

11. Is there any indication that the Chinese may reinforce the existing MIG capability of the North Vietnamese?

12. Have the capability and effect of the carrier aircraft in the present situation changed your evaluation of the necessity of additional carriers in the fleet?

13. Is the loss of U.S. aircraft considered serious by Defense Department; i.e., have we sufficient resources so that we can stand losing a dozen or so airplanes each week without having to renew production of aircraft in the U.S.?

14. Quite a bit is now being written about the attrition of USAF tactical aircraft in Vietnam and the fact that we have only limited numbers of this kind of aircraft available. Is this situation becoming a matter of concern? Why don't we use B-47s? (Ted Sell already asking in bull session.)

15. We are greatly confused over varying press reports attributed to high sources concerning additional build-up of U.S. personnel in South Vietnam. The figures range from a "few thousand" to "more than fifty thousand." Can you clear this up?

16. On your Wednesday arrival at Andrews Air Force Base you are reported saying that Communist infiltration into South Vietnam "increased at a high rate" in recent months. Later, at the White House, you are reported as saying that our air raids had slowed down infiltration of communist forces. Can you clarify this inconsistency?

17. How long can we continue increasing military aid to South Vietnam without increasing the DoD budget to accommodate this additional spending?

18. A story several days ago said the U.S. plans to disperse its tactical aircraft in Europe into many additional airfields in France, Germany and England. Is there such a plan and what is its purpose?

19. SAC has withdrawn its overseas alert forces from the two remaining air bases in Spain yet these bases do not appear on any base closing list. Are they to be kept operational? For what purpose?

20. Press accounts in the past few days have it that you are planning an "airmobile" Army division as one of the present 16 divisions of the Army. Is this true and if so can you give us details on the creation of such a division?

21. There is a report that a poll conducted among Army Reservists indicates that some 85 percent of them would not go into the National Guard under your Reserve/Guard realignment program. Is this poll accurate or do you have any information that indicates a different percentage?

22. Suggestion has been made that you are operating the DoD information program in line with the public relations program of the Ford Motor Company. Can you tell us what Ford's public relations program is or was as you knew it when you were with the company?

23. In your last meeting with us you said the Air Force had lost some 31 aircraft in Southeast Asia this fiscal year. We have great difficulty learning our total losses of aircraft by all services in Vietnam. Can we find out how many aircraft including helicopters have been lost in Southeast Asia over the same period?

24. Last December you announced the closing of a number of military installations surplus to defense needs. This list included some 15 overseas bases which you did not name. Since then, some five of these have been announced but there remain some ten more to close. When will these be announced? Has there been some reconsiderations on closing them?

25. A London Times story Thursday reports that the U.S. is on the brink of a Korean-type war; the disposition of troops, aircraft and ships have been planned and await only final orders. Comment?

26. Los Angeles Times reports that the aircraft industry has been alerted to prepare for a build-up for war production. Has Defense or any subordinate echelon issued such a warning?

27. Does the control of news from South Vietnam by the senior USIS man rather than by the military have your concurrence?

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

(Add to list prepared April 22)

28. What is the status of the engine problem and the overweight problem on the F-111B airplane.
29. Have there been new restrictions placed by the Pentagon on coverage of news stories relating to the build-up of U.S. force in the Pacific?
30. What happened to the draft study being prepared for the President and due in April. Does it appear the draft will end?
31. Will increased training activity for support of the Viet Nam operation delay the planned closing of any bases in the U.S.?
32. Defense spokesmen have already denied stories that the aircraft industry has been alerted for increased production but has there been any consideration given to this or any studies made concerning resumption of production of older model aircraft?
33. Will you soon have recommendations from your pay-study group on military pay? Will there be an increase?
34. Why is it taking so long to select a new General Counsel for the Defense Department?
35. A year ago Defense said propeller driven A-1's were best for the Viet Nam war. Now we are widely using jets. Do studies show which is the more effective in guerilla war?